

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Docket No. 6860

Petitions of Vermont Electric Power Company,)
Inc. (VELCO), Vermont Transco, LLC, and)
Green Mountain Power Corporation (GMP) for)
a certificate of public good, pursuant to 30)
V.S.A. Section 248, authorizing VELCO to)
construct the so-called Northwest Vermont)
Reliability Project, said project to include: (1))
upgrades at 12 existing VELCO and GMP)
substations located in Charlotte, Essex,)
Hartford, New Haven, North Ferrisburgh,)
Poultney, Shelburne, South Burlington,)
Vergennes, West Rutland, Williamstown, and)
Williston, Vermont; (2) the construction of a)
new 345 kV transmission line from West)
Rutland to New Haven; (3) the reconstruction of)
a portion of a 34.5 kV and 46 kV transmission)
line from New Haven to South Burlington; and)
(4) the reconductoring of a 115 kV transmission)
line from Williamstown to Barre, Vermont –)

Order entered: 11/30/2006

ORDER RE MEACH COVE MOTION TO CONTINUE HEARINGS

On November 16, 2006, Meach Cove Real Estate Trust ("Meach Cove") filed a motion to continue the technical hearings related to the proposed 115 kV transmission line as it crosses the Meach Cove property. Those hearings, along with hearings related to other locations, have been scheduled for the week of December 4, 2006. Meach Cove contends that the hearings should be continued, unless it reaches a settlement agreement with Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc. and Vermont Transco, LLC (collectively, "VELCO"), because VELCO has presented neither engineering detail on plan and profile, nor simulations addressing aesthetic impacts, related to VELCO's revised proposal for the Meach Cove property.

On November 29, 2006, VELCO filed a response to Meach Cove's motion. VELCO asserts that the hearings should proceed as scheduled because Meach Cove and all affected parties have had sufficient opportunity to prepare for the hearings, given that there have been "extensive discussions" concerning the design of the transmission line, including potential alternative designs.

We hereby grant Meach Cove's motion. At the October 17, 2006, hearing at which VELCO first presented its revised proposal for the Meach Cove property, VELCO represented that it would provide the engineering detail on plan and profile and the aesthetic simulations within two to three weeks. When asked by Board member Burke whether "both of those will be prepared and distributed to the parties in plenty of time for them to be able to look at them and respond to them by the December hearings . . . [w]hich I anticipate would be at least 30 days before that," VELCO witnesses answered in the affirmative.¹ Given that VELCO has not yet filed the detailed plans or the aesthetic simulations, we conclude that it would be unfair to Meach Cove and the other affected parties to proceed next week with hearings concerning the Meach Cove property.

We will instead convene a technical hearing related to the Meach Cove property on December 19, 2006, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., but only if VELCO, by December 5, 2006, files the engineering detail on plan and profile and the aesthetic simulations for its revised Meach Cove proposal. If VELCO does not file that information by December 5, then the technical hearing on Meach Cove issues would not be held until January, 2007, at the earliest (unless the parties reach a settlement that allows an earlier hearing).

1. Tr. 10/17/06 at 136 (Burke, Boyle, Dunn).

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 30th day of November, 2006.

_____)	
)	PUBLIC SERVICE
)	
<u>s/David C. Coen</u>)	BOARD
)	
)	OF VERMONT
<u>s/John D. Burke</u>)	

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

FILED: November 30, 2006

ATTEST: s/Susan M. Hudson
Clerk of the Board

NOTICE TO READERS: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Board (by e-mail, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: psb.clerk@state.vt.us)